BATMAN
No.44

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# BATMAN

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A 52 PAGE MAGAZINE

Will The Joker HAVE THE LAST LAUGH ?

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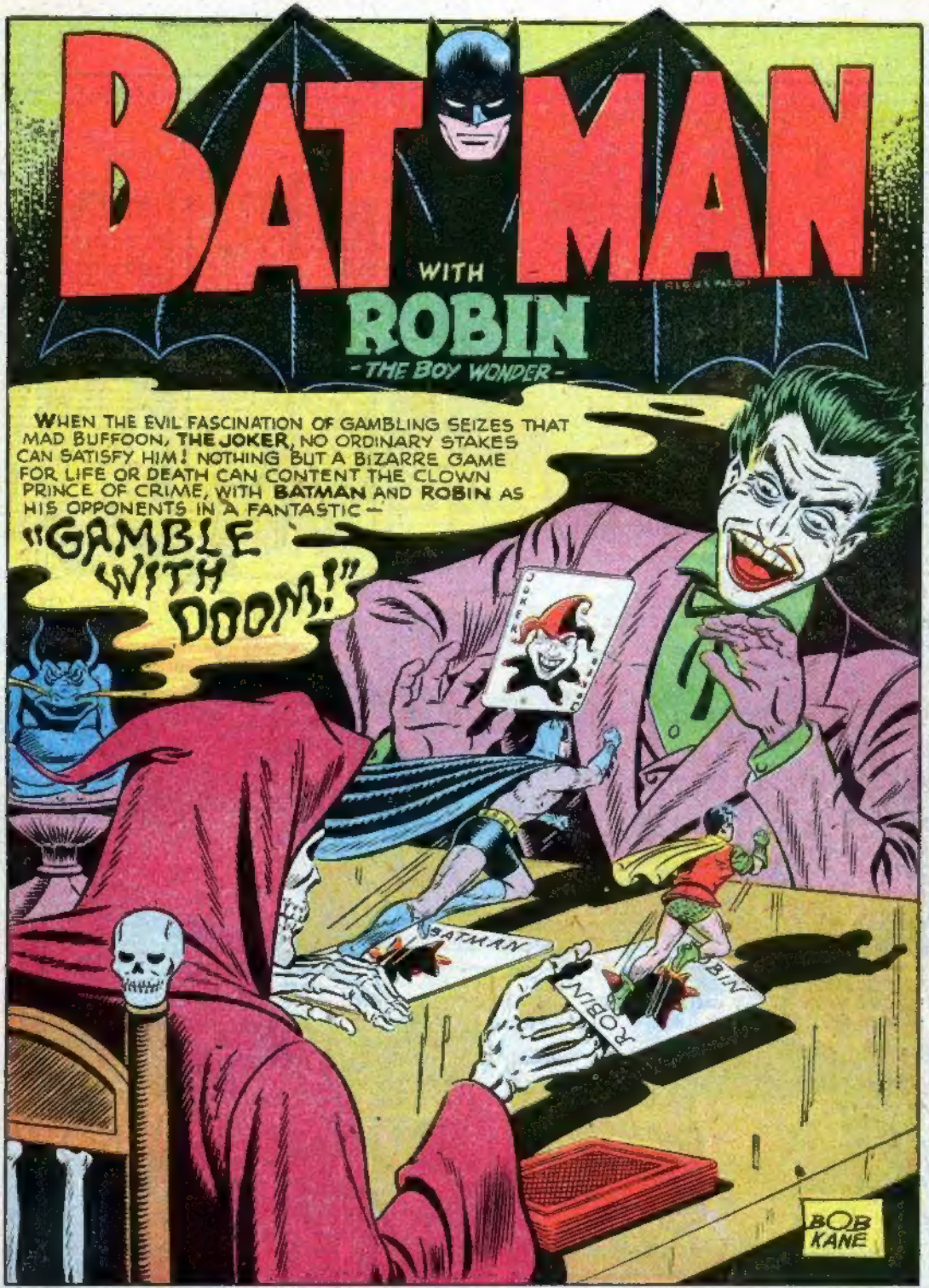

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
WHEN THE EVIL FASCINATION OF GAMBLING SEIZES THAT MAD BUFFOON, THE JOKER, NO ORDINARY STAKES CAN SATISFY HIM! NOTHING BUT A BIZARRE GAME FOR LIFE OR DEATH CAN CONTENT THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME, WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN AS HIS OPPONENTS IN A FANTASTIC—
"GAMBLE WITH DOOM!"
BATMAN
ROBIN
BOB KANE

BATMAN, No. 44, Dec.-Jan., 1947-48. Published bi-monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. Reentered as second class matter Aug. 1, 1941 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S. 75c including postage. Foreign, $1.50 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. Entire contents copyrighted 1947 by National Comics Publications, Inc. Except those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

Printed in U.S.A.

A HIDDEN, ILLEGAL GAMBLING HOUSE...
... HAS A STARTLING NEW CLIENT!
IT'S THE JOKER!
THIS IS JUST A SOCIAL VISIT, FOLKS! I WANT TO GAMBLE SOME OF MY LOOT—I MEAN, MY EARNINGS!
LADY FORTUNE SMILES ON THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE! AT THE ROULETTE WHEEL...
THIRTEEN WINS AGAIN!
HA, HA! WHO SAID THIRTEEN WAS UNLUCKY!
IT'S SURE LUCKY FOR YOU, JOKER!
AT THE DICE TABLE...
ANOTHER SEVEN! YOU WIN AGAIN!
HA, HA, HA! THIS IS EASIER THAN STEALING! HA, HA!
YOU'VE BROKEN THE BANK! YOU'VE WON EVERY CHIP IN THE HOUSE!
TOO BAD! IT ENDS MY WINNING STREAK!
AT THE POKER CARD GAME...
LATER, AT THE JOKER'S UNIQUE HIDEOUT...
LEWIS, I'M SO THRILLED WITH GAMBLING THAT I'M GOING TO PLAY A SUPER-GAME. BATMAN WILL BE MY OPPONENT AND REAL LIVES WILL BE THE STAKES!
THAT WOULD BE SUPER-GAMBLING, BOSS!

EVENINGS AFTERWARD, AN EERIE SIGN STABS GOTHAM CITY'S NIGHT SKY!
BRUCE—THE BAT SIGNAL!
TIME FOR US TO FORGET WE'RE DICK GRAYSON AND BRUCE WAYNE AND BECOME—BATMAN AND ROBIN!
PRESENTLY, IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
THIS MAN LEWIS CLAIMS TO HAVE VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR YOU!
BATMAN, I CAN LEAD YOU TO THE TWO CROOKS WHO STOLE THAT HOSPITAL RADIUM SHIPMENT!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THEM—IF YOU PROMISE ME THE REWARD!
LET'S GO! THAT RADIUM IS BADLY NEEDED!
LATER, A POWERFUL SPEEDBOAT HEADS OUT TOWARD A SMALL ISLAND...
BATMAN, THE RADIUM THIEVES ARE HIDING IN THAT HOUSE!
BUT INSIDE THE ISLAND-MANSION...
THE JOKER! THIS IS A TRAP!
HA,HA,HA! AND NOW I'LL SPRING IT!
A NEW TWIST—JACKPOT HITS MAN!
BONG

AFTER THE DYNAMIC DUO RECOVERS FROM THE STUNNING TRICK...
HERE ARE THE RADIUM THIEVES—DREW AND LANE! I CAPTURED THEM—BUT THEY HAD BURIED THEIR RADIUM LOOT ELSEWHERE!
GEE, BATMAN, IF WE'D KNOWN THAT WAS HOSPITAL RADIUM WE WOULDN'T HAVE STOLEN IT!

BATMAN, I'LL GAMBLE WITH YOU FOR THESE TWO AND THEIR RADIUM SECRET!
IT'S NO DEAL, JOKER. I NEVER GAMBLE!

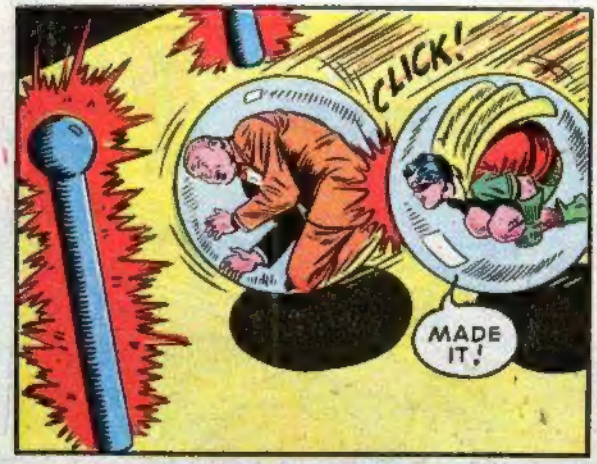
WIN THREE TIMES AND YOU WIN THEIR LIVES AND THE RADIUM SECRET! IF YOU LOSE, THEY DIE!
BUT I TOLD YOU, I HATE ALL GAMBLING!

REFUSE AND I'LL FINISH THEM AND ROBIN NOW—AND YOU LOSE THE HOSPITAL'S RADIUM!
THE FIEND! I'LL HAVE TO BET MY SKILL AGAINST HIM, TO SAVE THREE LIVES AND THE RADIUM!

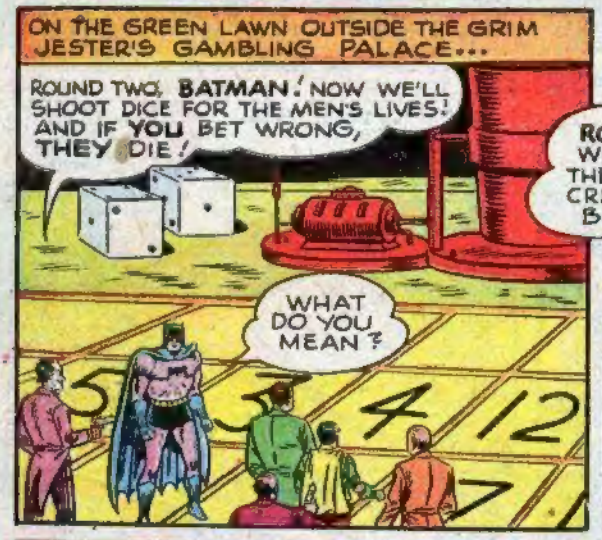
SOON—THE DIABOLICAL GAME OF DEATH BEGINS!
FIRST WE'LL HAVE A GAME OF SUPER-PINBALL! ROBIN AND THESE TWO THIEVES WILL BE THE "BALLS" IN THIS GAME!
SAFE

THE "PINS" ARE LIVE WIRES! AND EACH PLASTIC BALL IS WIRED—IF IT TOUCHES A "PIN," THE MAN INSIDE WILL BE ELECTROCUTED! START PLAYING, BATMAN!
SAFE

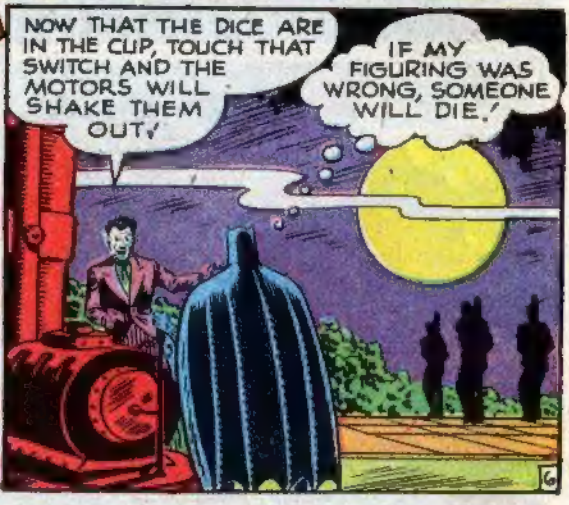
AIMING WITH PRECISION, BATMAN RELEASES THE GREAT PLUNGER AND THE PLASTIC SPHERE WITH ITS HUMAN PRISONER ROLLS UP THE GIANT PINBALL BOARD!
SAFE
YOU WIN WITH THE FIRST "BALL", BATMAN! NOW TRY THE SECOND WITH DREW IN IT.
BUT THE SECOND HUMAN "BALL", LANE...
HA, HA! LANE WILL ROLL BACK INTO A PIN! HE'S DOOMED!
SAFE
BATMAN, SHOOT ME OUT ON THE BOARD, QUICK! I CAN KNOCK LANE TO SAFETY!
USING HIS ACROBATIC AGILITY, ROBIN ROLLS INSIDE HIS SPHERE TO CHANGE ITS COURSE!
IF ROBIN'S ACROBATIC SKILL FAILS HIM...
JUST MISSED THAT ONE! AND IF I MISS LANE...


CLICK!
MADE IT!

FINALLY—"SAFE"—AFTER MISSING THE DEADLY "PIN" BY A HAIR'SBREADTH...
SAFE
THEY'RE SAFE!
YOU WON THIS GAMBLE, BATMAN! BUT THERE'S ANOTHER GAME TO PLAY NOW!
PICK THREE NUMBERS! ROBIN AND THE TWO CROOKS WILL BE CHAINED TO PEGS IN THEM, AND THE HUGE DICE WILL CRUSH ONE OR ALL IF YOU BET WRONG!
A FIEND'S DICE GAME!


ON THE GREEN LAWN OUTSIDE THE GRIM JESTER'S GAMBLING PALACE...
ROUND TWO, BATMAN! NOW WE'LL SHOOT DICE FOR THE MEN'S LIVES! AND IF YOU BET WRONG, THEY DIE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EVERY SENSE ALERT, THE CAPED MANHUNTER CALCULATES HOW THE DICE WILL FALL...
HE'S GETTING MUD ON THE RIGHT HAND EDGE OF THE DICE! IT SHOULD MAKE THEM SWERVE TO THE LEFT.'
I CHOOSE 4, 6, AND 11.'


NOW THAT THE DICE ARE IN THE CUP, TOUCH THAT SWITCH AND THE MOTORS WILL SHAKE THEM OUT.'
IF MY FIGURING WAS WRONG, SOMEONE WILL DIE.'

THE DICE ROLL! WE'LL SEE NOW WHO LOSES!
THEY'RE COMING RIGHT AT US! WE'LL BE KILLED!
NO, BATMAN WOULDN'T LET US DOWN!
THE DICE ARE SWERVING!
MY CALCULATIONS WERE RIGHT—THE WEIGHT OF THE MUD ON THEIR EDGES MADE THE DICE SWERVE!
YOU WIN AGAIN, BATMAN! BUT WE GAMBLE ONCE MORE FOR THESE THREE LIVES AND THE RADIUM!
WHEW! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE A GAMBLE FOR ME!

IN A FANTASTIC ROOM OF THE JOKER'S MANSION...
THIS IS MY CARD ROOM, BATMAN! AND HERE YOU AND I PLAY OUR THIRD GAME!
WHAT GAMBLER'S TRICK HAVE YOU IN MIND NOW?
ONE OF THOSE PLAYING CARD PANELS IS A REMOTE-CONTROLLED DOOR! THE THREE ARE LOCKED IN...
... AND DEADLY GAS IS PUMPED INTO THE SEALED ROOM! TURN ON THE GAS, LEWIS!
AS THE FATAL FUMES HISS INTO THE CHAMBER OF DOOM...
TOUCH THE RIGHT CARD, BATMAN, AND A SECRET DOOR IN THERE WILL OPEN! IT'S THEIR ONLY CHANCE OF ESCAPE!
ONLY ONE CHANCE IN DOZENS!
GAS
ONCE AGAIN THREE LIVES HANG ON BATMAN'S CHOICE!
WHICH CARD WOULD THE JOKER USE FOR THE SECRET DOOR?
CHOOSE QUICKLY! THE GAS IS OVERPOWERING THEM!
THE JOKER CARD! HE'D FIGURE I'D AVOID THAT, BUT USING IT WOULD APPEAL TO HIS MAD HUMOR! I'VE GOT TO RISK IT!

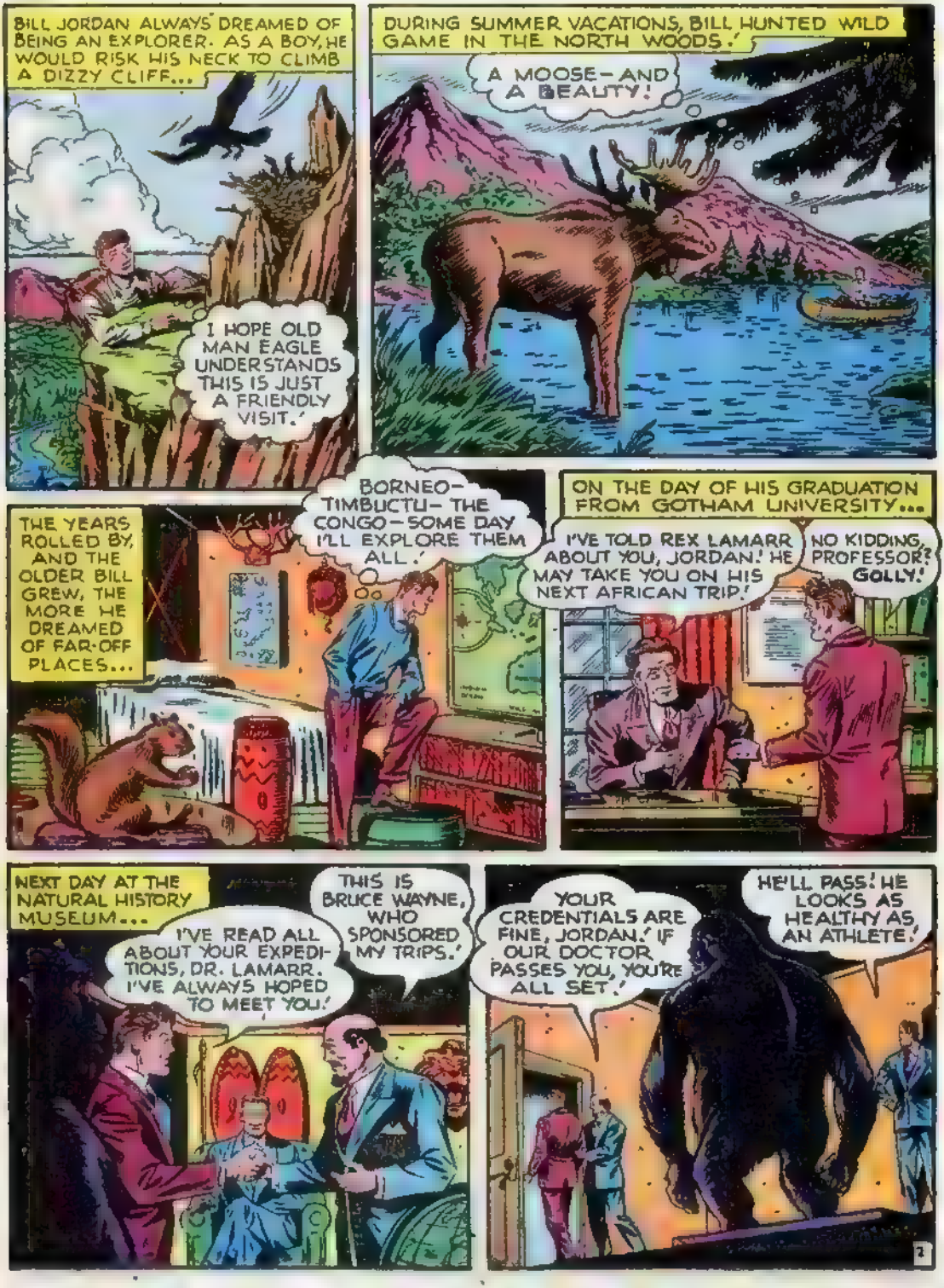
A QUIVERING HAND TOUCHES AN OMINOUS CARD...
...AND THE HIDDEN DOOR OF ESCAPE SWINGS OPEN!
BATMAN GUESSED RIGHT! QUICK, BEFORE THE GAS OVER-COMES US!
JOKER, I'VE WON THE THREE GAMBLES FOR THE THIEVES' LIVES AND THE RADIUM! ARE YOU GOING TO STICK TO YOUR BARGAIN?
NOT YET! YOU AND I HAVE ONE FINAL GAMBLE TO MAKE!
YOU'RE GOING TO GAMBLE FOR YOUR OWN LIFE NOW—AGAINST MINE!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D RING IN AN EXTRA TRICK!
MEANWHILE...
NOT SO FAST! YOU THREE ARE GOING BACK IN THERE!
SO THE JOKER IS WELSHING ON HIS GAMBLE! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN IT!
FORCED BACK THROUGH THE DOOR, ROBIN SUDDENLY SLAMS IT...
WHA-WHAT?
I HATE TO SLAM THE DOOR IN YOUR FACE, BUT—
K
E
R

—YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOCKED, LIKE THIS!
WHILE ELSEWHERE...
THE FINAL GAMBLE IS ON THIS ROULETTE WHEEL— YOUR LIFE AGAINST MINE!
HA, HA! I TAKE ZERO— THE HOUSE NUMBER! AND NOW I'LL START THE MOTORS!
IF THAT MASSIVE METAL BALL FALLS IN YOUR SLOT, IT WILL KILL YOU! IF IN MINE, IT WILL KILL ME!
IF I KNEW HOW HE HAD THIS WHEEL FIXED...
'ROUND AND 'ROUND SPINS THE GREAT WHEEL, WITH LIFE THE PRIZE AND DEATH THE PENALTY!
THIS WIRE ALONG THE SIDE MUST "FIX" THE WHEEL! IF I COULD TEAR THEM OUT...
HA, HA! YOUR NUMBER NEARLY CAME UP THAT TIME!

BUT A SWIFT SNATCH AS THE WHEEL WHIRLS...
THAT DOES IT! AT LEAST THE WHEEL IS HONEST NOW!
HE'S WRECKED MY CONTROL OF THE WHEEL! THE BALL NEARLY HIT ME!
LIKE ALL GAMBLERS, YOU'RE CROOKED AND YELLOW AT THE END.
I COULD BE KILLED! I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS.
30
12
3
HA,HA! I KNOW WHEN TO QUIT GAMBLING!
YOU DIDN'T QUIT SOON ENOUGH.
ROBIN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES, AND I GOT THE RADIUM THIEVES OUT SAFELY!

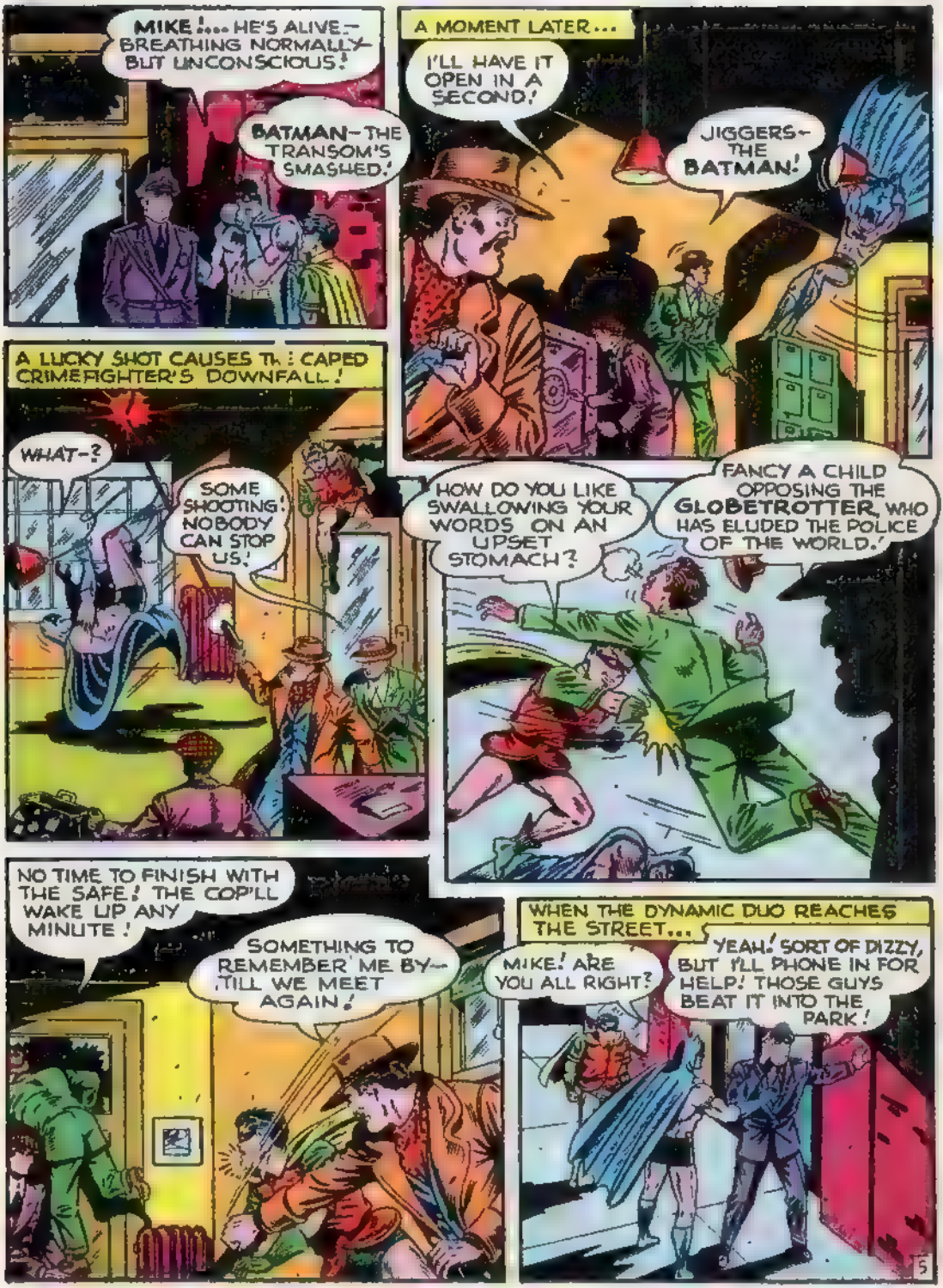
WE'LL RESTORE THE BURIED RADIUM AND SURRENDER TO THE LAW!
THAT'S GOOD, BUT THE JOKER IS GETTING AWAY!
SWIFTLY PURSUING...
MAYBE I CAN STILL WIN!
AN AMBUSH, ROBIN! LEAP TO THE RIGHT!
MISSED THEM!
THAT WAS YOUR LAST GAMBLE, JOKER!
I'LL TAKE ONE MORE CHANCE!
IF YOU JUMP, YOU'LL DROWN!
THIS IS MY BIGGEST BET!
NO SIGN OF HIM! HE MUST HAVE DROWNED!
MAYBE! BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE JOKER BEING DEAD— I'M NOT GAMBLING ON IT!
?
THE END

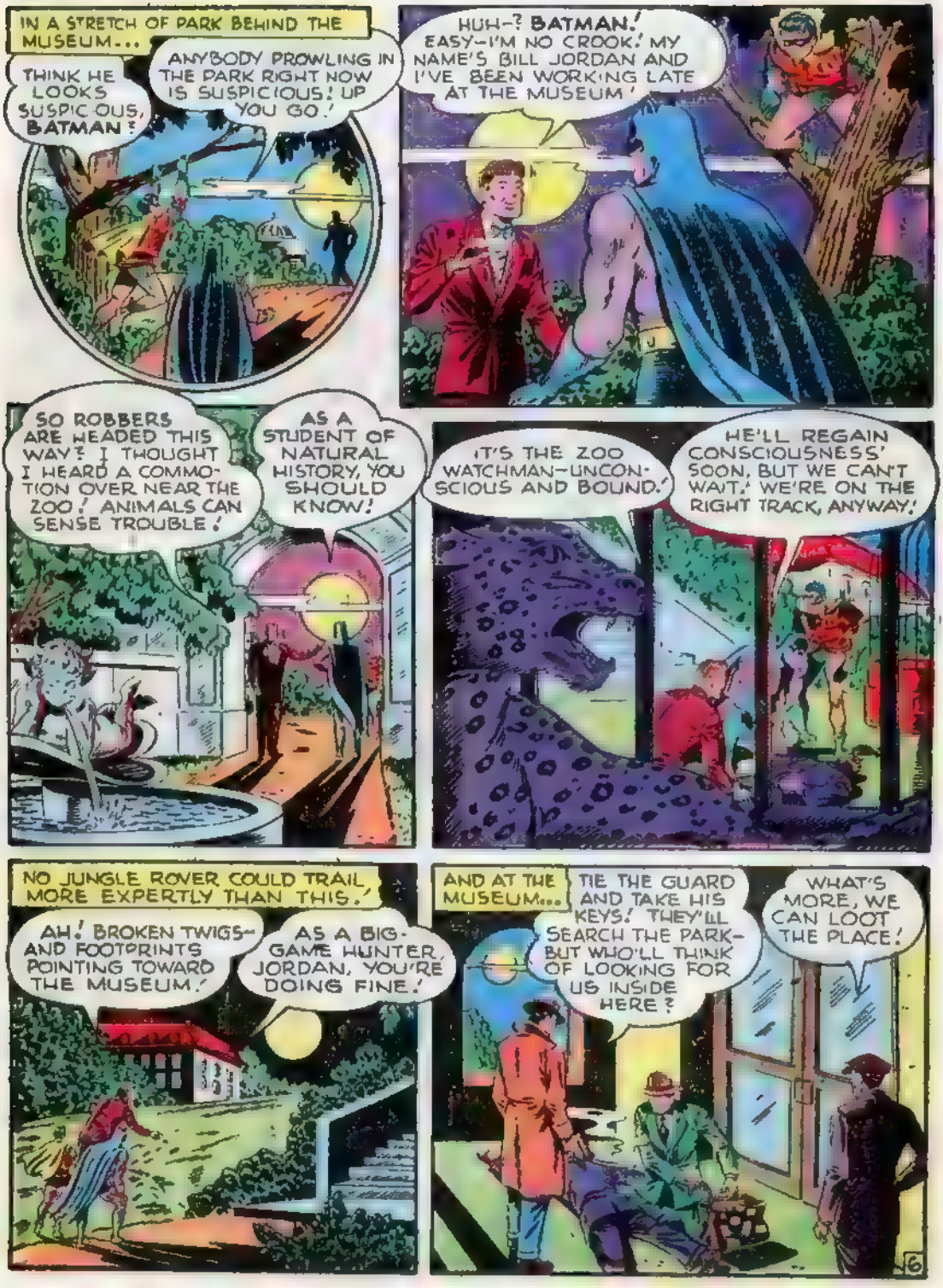
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
BOB KANE
THIS IS THE STORY OF BILL JORDAN, AN ORDINARY BOY WHO DREAMED OF LIVING A LIFE OF THRILLS AND DANGER. BUT A CRUEL FATE RULED THAT BILL'S DREAMS WERE NOT TO COME TRUE—THAT HE WAS DOOMED TO A DULL AND UNEXCITING LIFE IN A MUSEUM—UNTIL HE CROSSED THE PATH OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER AND LEARNED THAT HE, LIKE THEM, WAS—
"BORN for ADVENTURE!"


BILL JORDAN ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING AN EXPLORER. AS A BOY, HE WOULD RISK HIS NECK TO CLIMB A DIZZY CLIFF...
I HOPE OLD MAN EAGLE UNDERSTANDS THIS IS JUST A FRIENDLY VISIT.'
DURING SUMMER VACATIONS, BILL HUNTED WILD GAME IN THE NORTH WOODS.'
A MOOSE—AND A BEAUTY!
THE YEARS ROLLED BY, AND THE OLDER BILL GREW, THE MORE HE DREAMED OF FAR-OFF PLACES...
BORNEO—TIMBUCTU—THE CONGO—SOME DAY I'LL EXPLORE THEM ALL.'
ON THE DAY OF HIS GRADUATION FROM GOTHAM UNIVERSITY...
I'VE TOLD REX LAMARR ABOUT YOU, JORDAN! HE MAY TAKE YOU ON HIS NEXT AFRICAN TRIP!
NO KIDDING, PROFESSOR? GOLLY!
NEXT DAY AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM...
I'VE READ ALL ABOUT YOUR EXPEDITIONS, DR. LAMARR. I'VE ALWAYS HOPED TO MEET YOU!
THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE, WHO SPONSORED MY TRIPS.'
YOUR CREDENTIALS ARE FINE, JORDAN.' IF OUR DOCTOR PASSES YOU, YOU'RE ALL SET.'
HE'LL PASS! HE LOOKS AS HEALTHY AS AN ATHLETE.'

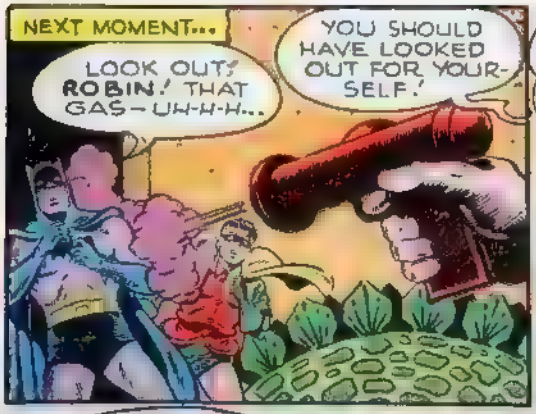
IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXPEDITION'S DOCTOR, ALL GOES WELL—TILL AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH TEST IS MADE!
HMM... NOT SO GOOD.
BUT THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING WRONG WITH MY HEART.
I'M AFRAID THERE IS, BILL. NO EXCITEMENT FOR YOU.
IT'S A SHAME, BUT THE DOCTOR IS RIGHT!
MY CAREER'S OVER BEFORE IT'S BEGUN! I'VE WASTED YEARS GETTING READY FOR—NOTHING.
YOUR TRAINING WON'T BE WASTED, SON. I'LL GIVE YOU A JOB HERE IN THE MUSEUM.
IT WILL BE ALMOST THE SAME WORK YOU'D DO IN THE JUNGLE, EXCEPT FOR THE RISKS!
IT WON'T SEEM THE SAME—BUT THANKS! I'LL DO MY BEST!
DAYS LATER, AS SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON TAKE A STROLL...
SOME MUSEUM, BRUCE! ZOO, BOTANICAL GARDEN... WHAT WILL LAMARR FIND IN AFRICA THAT ISN'T RIGHT HERE?
ZOO
BOTANICAL GARDENS
CATALOGING THE AFRICAN SECTION, JORDAN? IT'S AN IMPORTANT JOB!
NOT VERY THRILLING, THOUGH! I WISH I HAD BEEN THE MAN TO DISCOVER THESE TROPHIES!

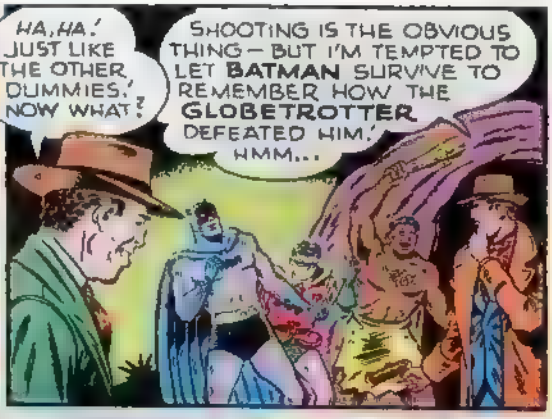
I KNOW HOW JORDAN FEELS! IF BATMAN AND ROBIN WEREN'T BUSY ON A MAN-HUNT, I'D LOVE TO GO TO AFRICA!
NO VACATIONS, FELLA, TILL WE TRAP THE CRIMINAL WE'RE AFTER--THE GLOBE-TROTTER!
REX LAMARR FIELD DIRECTOR
THE GLOBETROTTER, INFAMOUS FUGITIVE, HAS BLAZED A TRAIL OF FANTASTIC FELONIES AROUND THE WORLD! IN CEYLON...
AI-EE! THEY HAVE STOLEN THE UNTOUCHABLE RUBY!
HO-HO! THE POLICE WILL FIND ME UNTOUCHABLE, TOO!
IN PARIS...
SHALL I CARVE A MAP OF MY ROUTE ON YOUR FACE WITH THIS SWORD, SO YOU'LL KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR ME NEXT?
SACRE BLEU! C'EST LE GLOBETROTTER!
AND NOW THIS VERY NIGHT--IN GOTHAM CITY...
HUH?.. HEY, YOU--JUST A MINUTE!
EH? YOU WISH TO SEE MY CREDENTIALS?
FROM SANDY HOOK TO SINGAPORE MY "QUICK-FREEZE" GAS HAS DISCOURAGED THE CURIOUS! PROP HIM BESIDE THE DOOR, BOYS!
HE'LL BE STIFF AS A BOARD FOR 15 MINUTES! WHO'LL GUESS WE'RE PULLING A JOB WITH A COP STANDING OUTSIDE?
A CLEVER RUSE, WHICH MIGHT HAVE WORKED--EXCEPT THAT THE BATMOBILE IS ON THE PROWL!
HERE'S HANNEGAN! WONDER IF HE'S SEEN ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS ON HIS BEAT?

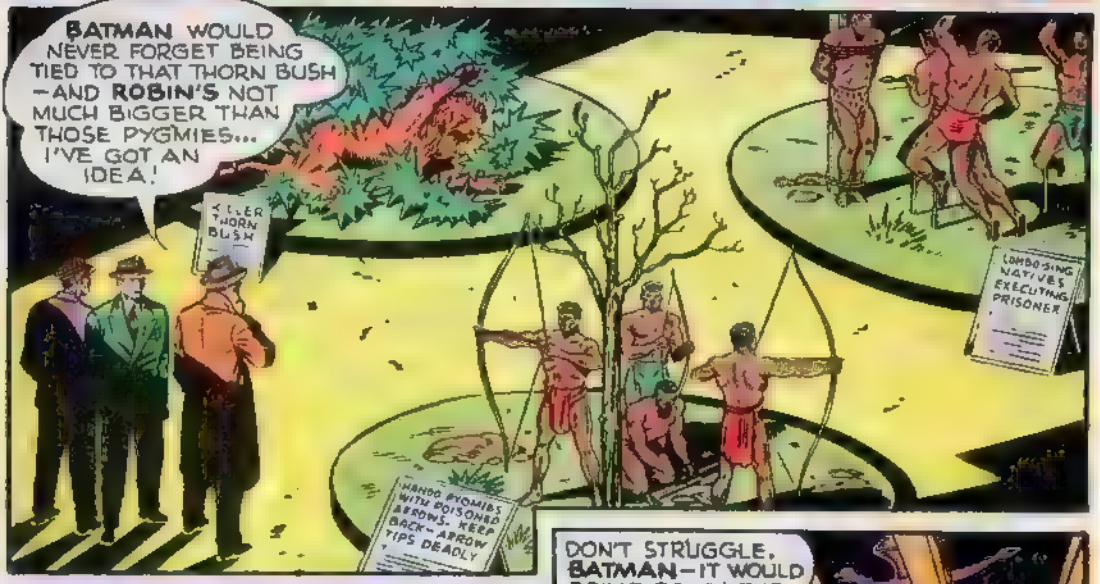

MIKE!... HE'S ALIVE— BREATHING NORMALLY— BUT UNCONSCIOUS!
BATMAN— THE TRANSOM'S SMASHED!
A MOMENT LATER...
I'LL HAVE IT OPEN IN A SECOND!
JIGGERS— THE BATMAN!
A LUCKY SHOT CAUSES THE CAPED CRIMEFIGHTER'S DOWNFALL!
WHAT—?
SOME SHOOTING! NOBODY CAN STOP US!
HOW DO YOU LIKE SWALLOWING YOUR WORDS ON AN UPSET STOMACH?
FANCY A CHILD OPPOSING THE GLOBETROTTER, WHO HAS ELUDED THE POLICE OF THE WORLD!
NO TIME TO FINISH WITH THE SAFE! THE COP'LL WAKE UP ANY MINUTE!
SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY— 'TILL WE MEET AGAIN!
WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO REACHES THE STREET...
MIKE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH! SORT OF DIZZY, BUT I'LL PHONE IN FOR HELP! THOSE GUYS BEAT IT INTO THE PARK!

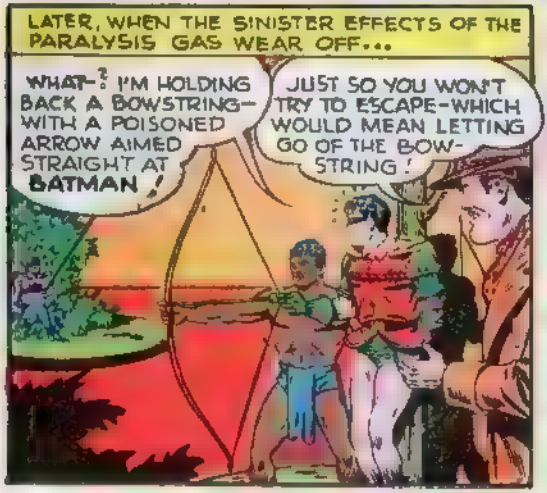

IN A STRETCH OF PARK BEHIND THE MUSEUM...
ANYBODY PROWLING IN THE PARK RIGHT NOW IS SUSPICIOUS! UP YOU GO.'
THINK HE LOOKS SUSPICIOUS, BATMAN?
HUH-? BATMAN! EASY-I'M NO CROOK! MY NAME'S BILL JORDAN AND I'VE BEEN WORKING LATE AT THE MUSEUM!
SO ROBBERS ARE HEADED THIS WAY? I THOUGHT I HEARD A COMMOTION OVER NEAR THE ZOO! ANIMALS CAN SENSE TROUBLE!
AS A STUDENT OF NATURAL HISTORY, YOU SHOULD KNOW!
IT'S THE ZOO WATCHMAN-UNCONSCIOUS AND BOUND.'
HE'LL REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS SOON, BUT WE CAN'T WAIT.' WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, ANYWAY!
NO JUNGLE ROVER COULD TRAIL MORE EXPERTLY THAN THIS.'
AH! BROKEN TWIGS-AND FOOTPRINTS POINTING TOWARD THE MUSEUM.'
AS A BIG-GAME HUNTER, JORDAN, YOU'RE DOING FINE.'
AND AT THE MUSEUM...
TIE THE GUARD AND TAKE HIS KEYS! THEY'LL SEARCH THE PARK-BUT WHO'LL THINK OF LOOKING FOR US INSIDE HERE?
WHAT'S MORE, WE CAN LOOT THE PLACE!

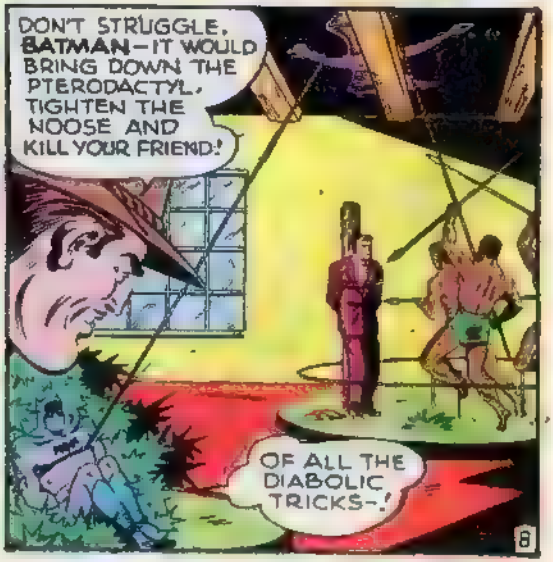
IN THE MUSEUM'S VAST "HALL OF PREHISTORIC LIFE"...
THESE STUFFED DUMMIES ARE ALL GLARING AT ME! IT GIVES ME THE WILLIES!
LET'S NOT GET JITTERY! WE'RE AS SAFE AS IF WE WERE ON A DESERT ISLAND!
GEE—I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT IT'S JUST ABOUT TO GRAB ME!
YAI! IT'S GOT ME!
HUH-? WHERE'D HE COME FROM?
CARMEN NEVER USED GUNS—AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU!
I'LL FIX THIS ONE—UH-H-H...
JORDAN!... I TOLD HIM TO KEEP OUT OF THIS! HIS HEART WON'T STAND IT!


NEXT MOMENT...
LOOK OUT, ROBIN! THAT GAS—UH-H-H...
YOU SHOULD HAVE LOOKED OUT FOR YOURSELF!

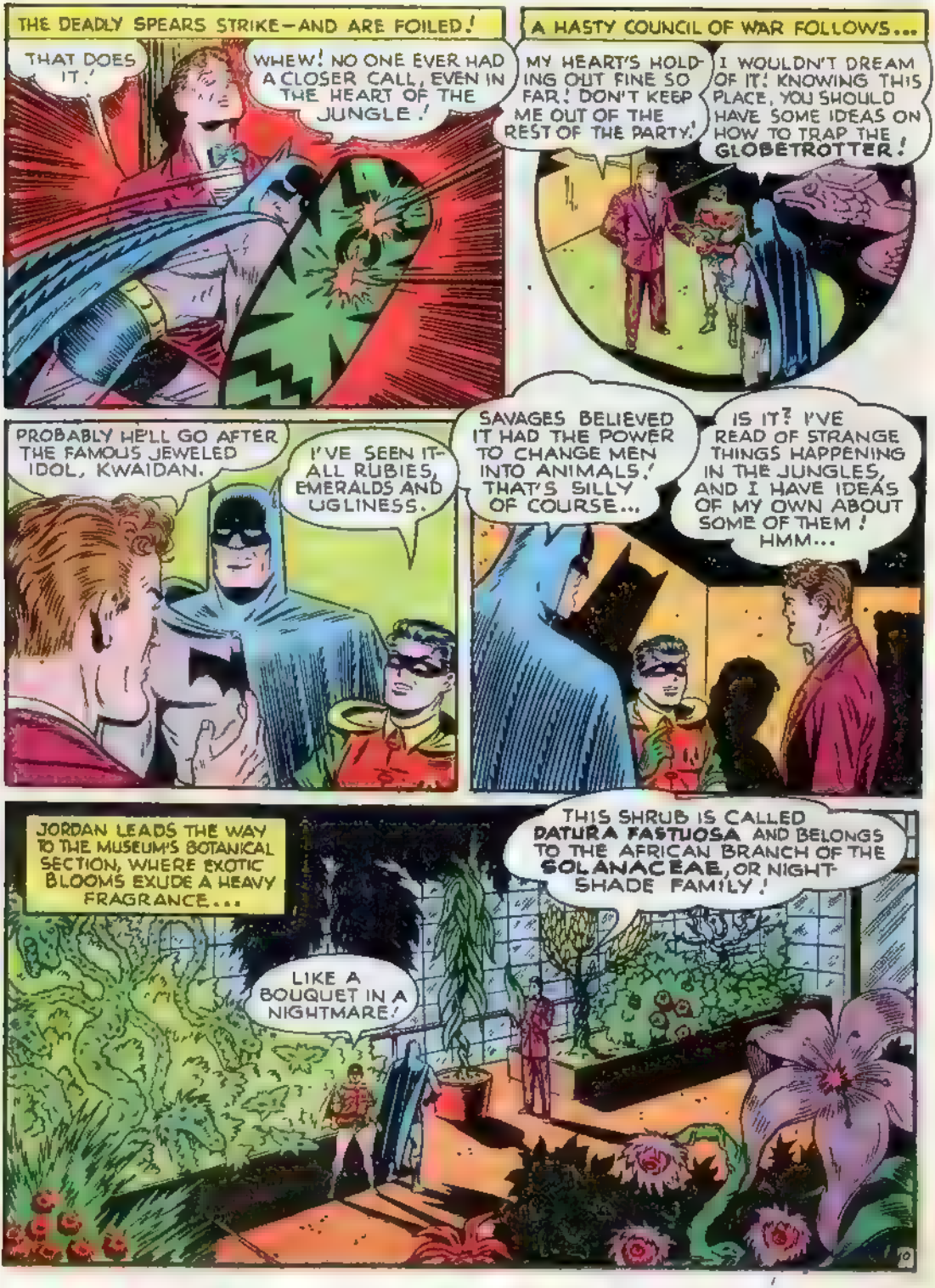

HA, HA! JUST LIKE THE OTHER DUMMIES! NOW WHAT?
SHOOTING IS THE OBVIOUS THING—BUT I'M TEMPTED TO LET BATMAN SURVIVE TO REMEMBER HOW THE GLOBETROTTER DEFEATED HIM! HMM...

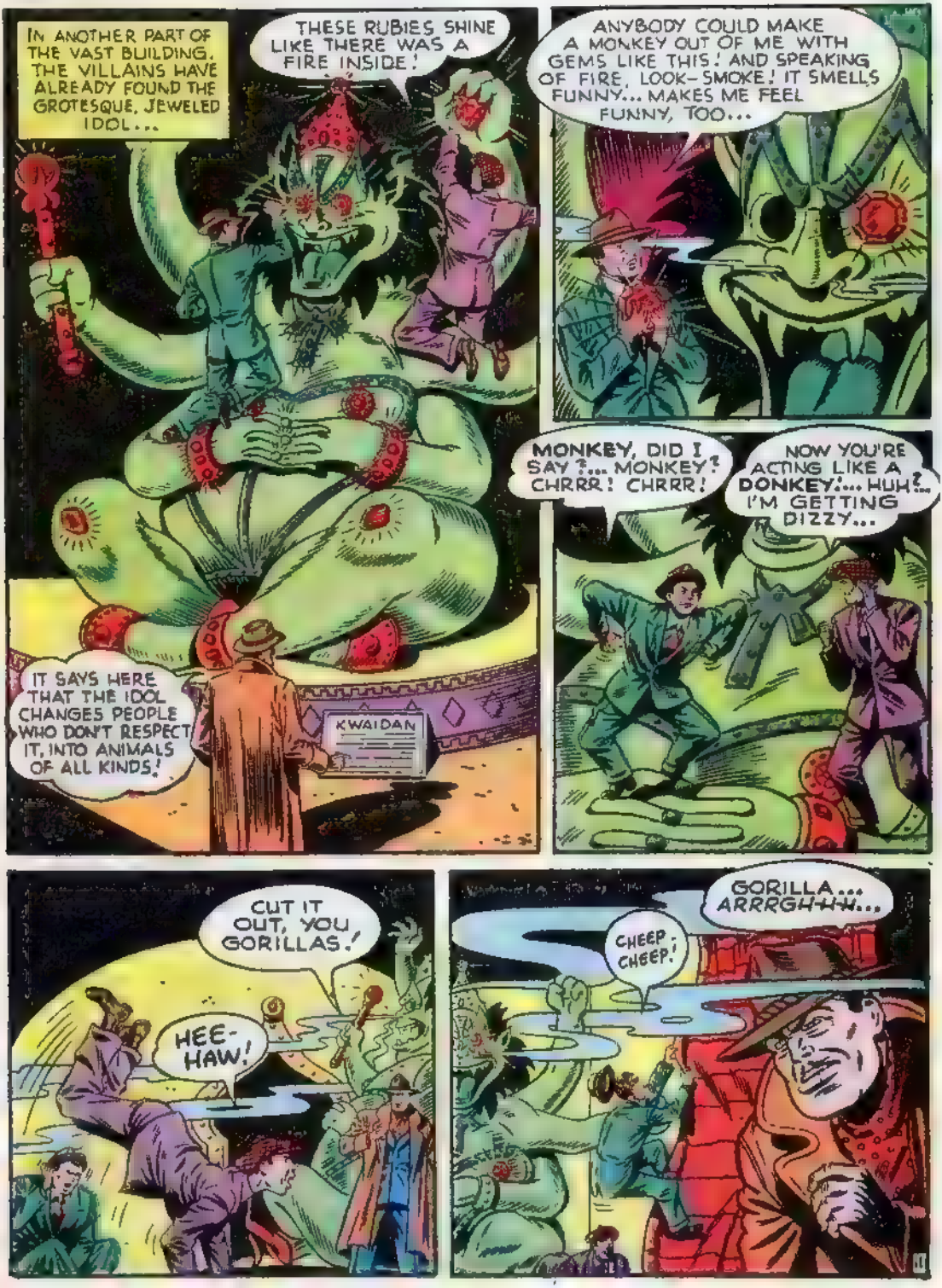

BATMAN WOULD NEVER FORGET BEING TIED TO THAT THORN BUSH—AND ROBIN'S NOT MUCH BIGGER THAN THOSE PYGMIES... I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
KILLER THORN BUSH
HANDS OF PYGMIES WITH POISONED ARROWS. KEEP BACK—ARROW TIPS DEADLY
LAMBOSING NATIVES EXECUTING PRISONER


LATER, WHEN THE SINISTER EFFECTS OF THE PARALYSIS GAS WEAR OFF...
WHAT—? I'M HOLDING BACK A BOWSTRING—WITH A POISONED ARROW AIMED STRAIGHT AT BATMAN!
JUST SO YOU WON'T TRY TO ESCAPE—WHICH WOULD MEAN LETTING GO OF THE BOWSTRING!

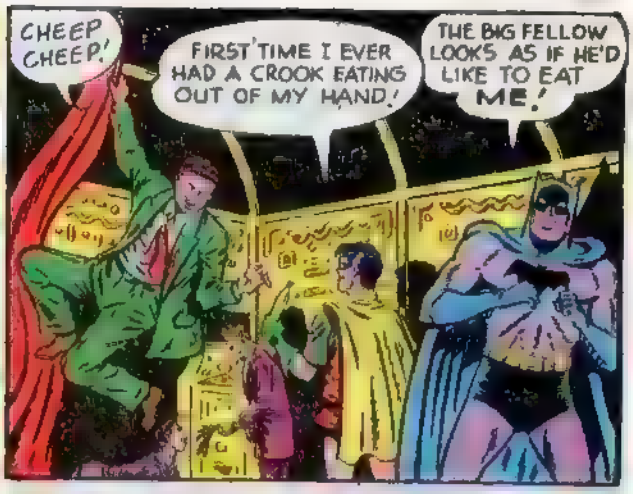

DON'T STRUGGLE, BATMAN—IT WOULD BRING DOWN THE PTERODACTYL, TIGHTEN THE NOOSE AND KILL YOUR FRIEND!
OF ALL THE DIABOLIC TRICKS—!

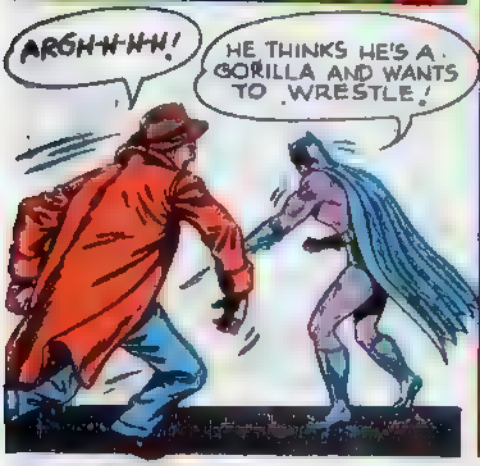
IF YOU ALL KEEP VERY STILL, SOMEONE WILL RELEASE YOU IN THE MORNING!
AND BY THEN YOU'LL HAVE LOOTED AND DEPARTED.
WHEN THE VILLAINS HAVE GONE IN SEARCH OF BOOTY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, BATMAN! ESCAPE AND TRAP THOSE RATS IF YOU CAN! I'M LIVING ON BORROWED TIME, ANYWAY!
NONSENSE! WE CAN THINK OUR WAY FREE!
I'LL MOVE AS MUCH AS I CAN WITHOUT RIPPING MYSELF TO BITS ON THESE THORNS, ROBIN—AND YOU AIM FOR MY ROPES WITH THAT ARROW!
BUT IT'S POISONED! ONE SCRATCH WOULD KILL YOU!
OUCH! IT'S LIKE BEING IN A HAYSTACK FULL OF NEEDLES!
I CAN'T MISS... MUSTN'T MISS!
UNCERTAIN LIGHT... A SHIFTING TARGET... EVERYTHING SEEMS TO CONSPIRE AGAINST SUCCESS! AND YET...
IT—IT WORKED! YOU'LL NEVER KNOW HOW SCARED I WAS, BATMAN!
NOT HALF AS SCARED AS I WAS!
FREEDOM FOR BATMAN—BUT MUST IT BE AT THE COST OF BILL JORDAN'S LIFE?
BE RIGHT WITH YOU, JORDAN!
KEEP BACK! NO SENSE IN RISKING YOUR LIFE AGAIN!

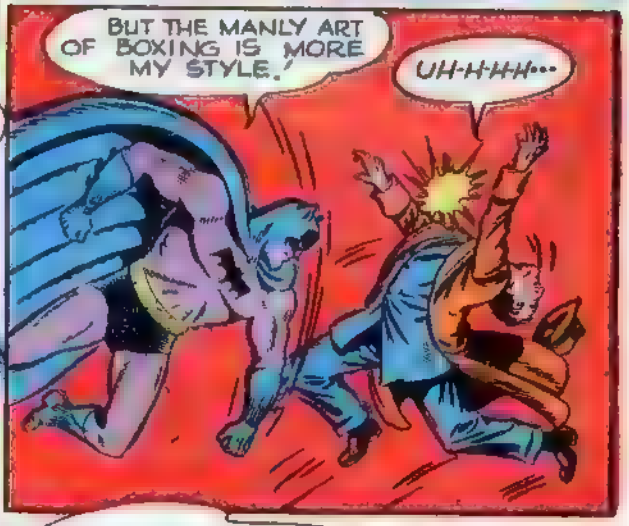

THE DEADLY SPEARS STRIKE—AND ARE FOILED!
THAT DOES IT.
WHEW! NO ONE EVER HAD A CLOSER CALL, EVEN IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE!
A HASTY COUNCIL OF WAR FOLLOWS...
MY HEART'S HOLDING OUT FINE SO FAR! DON'T KEEP ME OUT OF THE REST OF THE PARTY!
I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT! KNOWING THIS PLACE, YOU SHOULD HAVE SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO TRAP THE GLOBETROTTER!
PROBABLY HE'LL GO AFTER THE FAMOUS JEWELED IDOL, KWAIDAN.
I'VE SEEN IT—ALL RUBIES, EMERALDS AND UGLINESS.
SAVAGES BELIEVED IT HAD THE POWER TO CHANGE MEN INTO ANIMALS! THAT'S SILLY OF COURSE...
IS IT? I'VE READ OF STRANGE THINGS HAPPENING IN THE JUNGLES, AND I HAVE IDEAS OF MY OWN ABOUT SOME OF THEM! HMM...
JORDAN LEADS THE WAY TO THE MUSEUM'S BOTANICAL SECTION, WHERE EXOTIC BLOOMS EXUDE A HEAVY FRAGRANCE...
THIS SHRUB IS CALLED DATURA FASTUOSA AND BELONGS TO THE AFRICAN BRANCH OF THE SOLANACEAE, OR NIGHT-SHADE FAMILY!
LIKE A BOUQUET IN A NIGHTMARE!

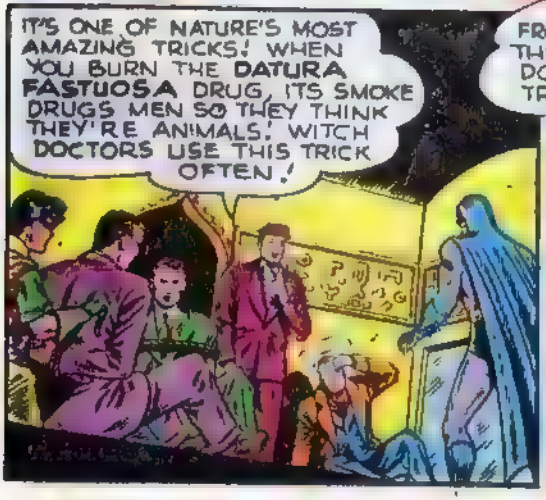

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VAST BUILDING, THE VILLAINS HAVE ALREADY FOUND THE GROTESQUE, JEWELED IDOL...
THESE RUBIES SHINE LIKE THERE WAS A FIRE INSIDE!
IT SAYS HERE THAT THE IDOL CHANGES PEOPLE WHO DON'T RESPECT IT, INTO ANIMALS OF ALL KINDS!
KWAIDAN
ANYBODY COULD MAKE A MONKEY OUT OF ME WITH GEMS LIKE THIS! AND SPEAKING OF FIRE, LOOK—SMOKE! IT SMELLS FUNNY... MAKES ME FEEL FUNNY, TOO...
MONKEY, DID I SAY?... MONKEY? CHRRR! CHRRR!
NOW YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A DONKEY!... HUH?... I'M GETTING DIZZY...
CUT IT OUT, YOU GORILLAS!
HEE-HAW!
CHEEP-CHEEP!
GORILLA... ARRRGH-H-H...

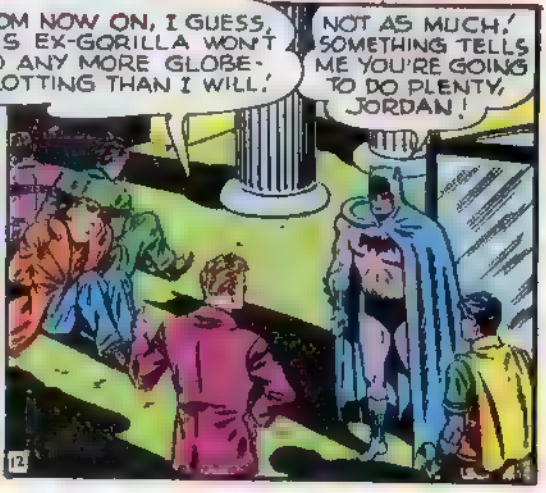
WITHIN THE IDOL'S HOLLOW SHELL, WHERE ONCE SAVAGE WITCH-DOCTORS CROUCHED..
MY TRICK'S GOT ALL OF THEM! YOU'LL FIND THE MONKEY AND THE DONKEY FAIRLY REASONABLE— BUT NOT THE GORILLA!
I STILL SAY IT'S BLACK MAGIC, JORDAN!

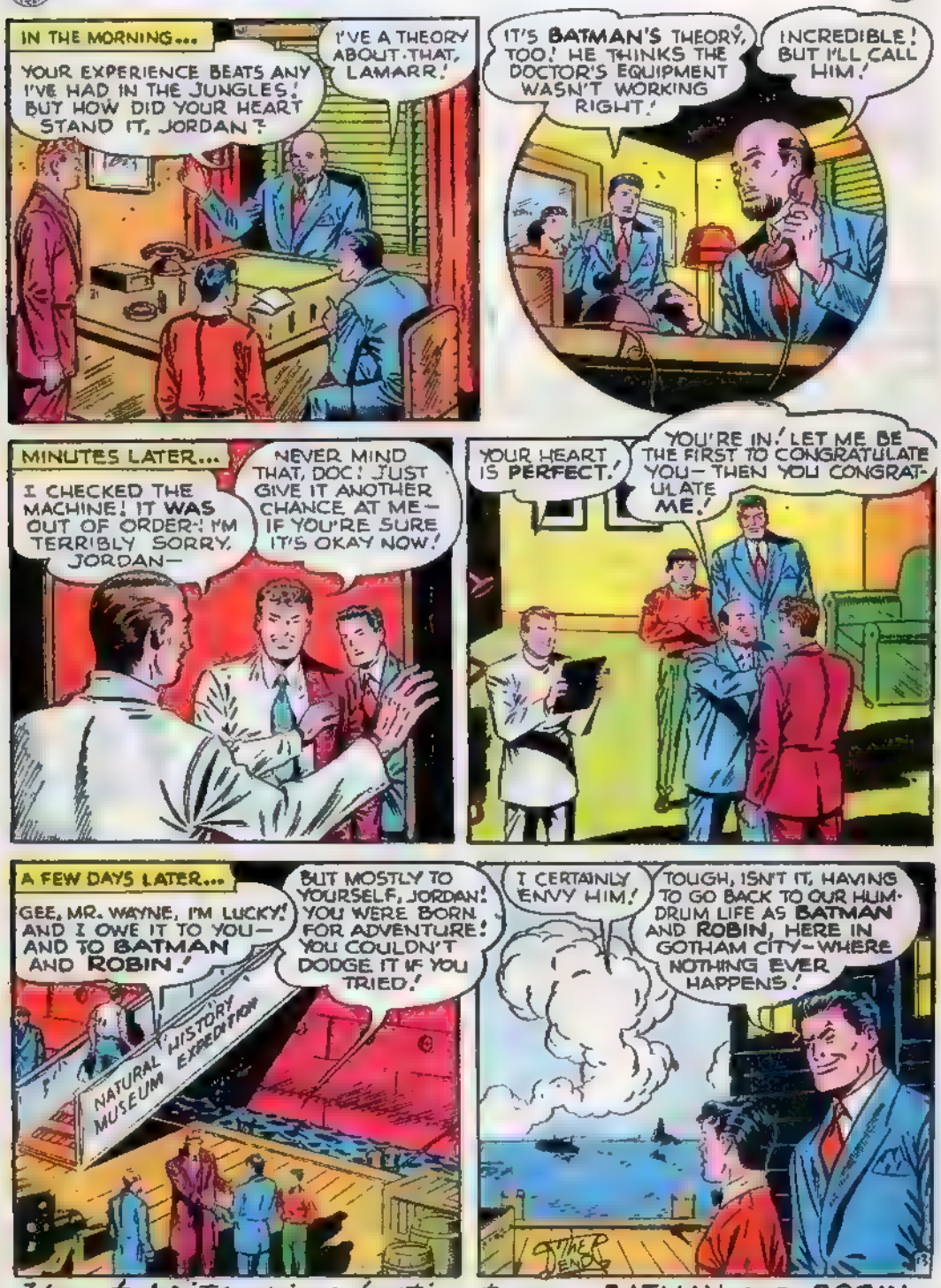

CHEEP CHEEP!
FIRST TIME I EVER HAD A CROOK EATING OUT OF MY HAND!
THE BIG FELLOW LOOKS AS IF HE'D LIKE TO EAT ME!


ARGH-H-H-H!
HE THINKS HE'S A GORILLA AND WANTS TO WRESTLE!

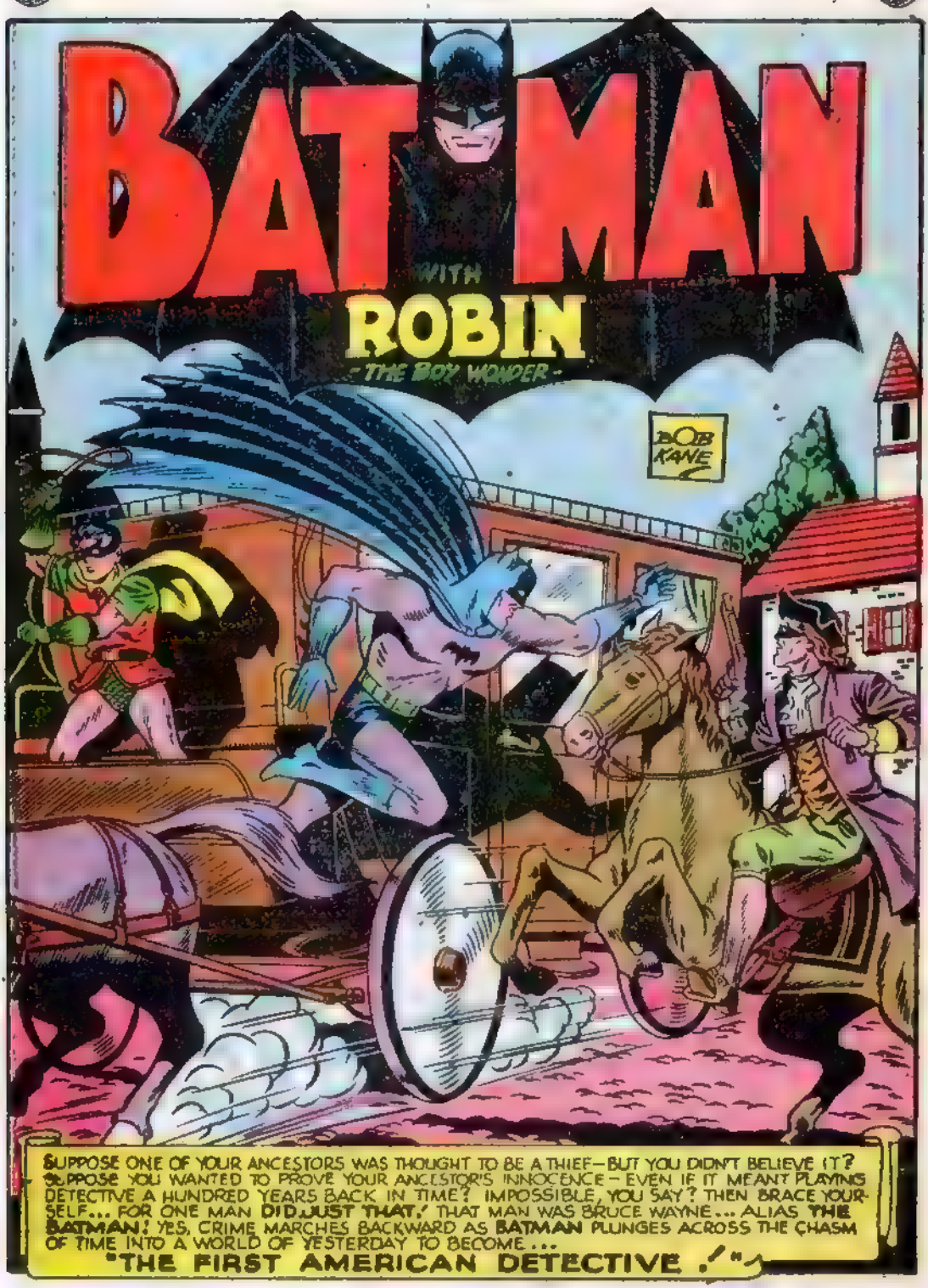

BUT THE MANLY ART OF BOXING IS MORE MY STYLE!
UH-H-H-H...


IT'S ONE OF NATURE'S MOST AMAZING TRICKS! WHEN YOU BURN THE DATURA FASTUOSA DRUG, ITS SMOKE DRUGS MEN SO THEY THINK THEY'RE ANIMALS! WITCH DOCTORS USE THIS TRICK OFTEN!

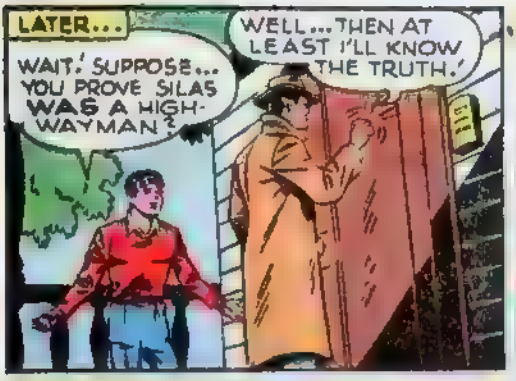

FROM NOW ON, I GUESS, THIS EX-GORILLA WON'T DO ANY MORE GLOBE-TROTTING THAN I WILL!
NOT AS MUCH! SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE GOING TO DO PLENTY, JORDAN!
12

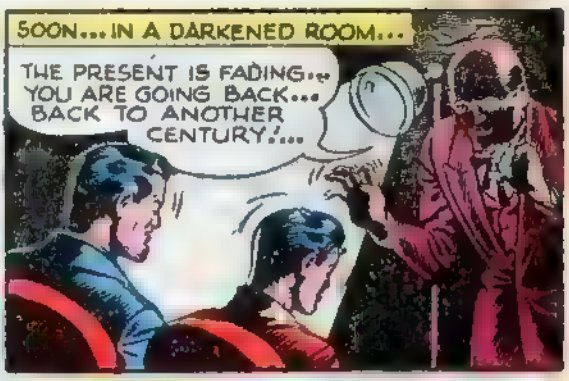

IN THE MORNING...
YOUR EXPERIENCE BEATS ANY I'VE HAD IN THE JUNGLES! BUT HOW DID YOUR HEART STAND IT, JORDAN?
I'VE A THEORY ABOUT THAT, LAMARR!
IT'S BATMAN'S THEORY, TOO! HE THINKS THE DOCTOR'S EQUIPMENT WASN'T WORKING RIGHT!
INCREDIBLE! BUT I'LL CALL HIM!
MINUTES LATER...
I CHECKED THE MACHINE! IT WAS OUT OF ORDER! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, JORDAN—
NEVER MIND THAT, DOC! JUST GIVE IT ANOTHER CHANCE AT ME—IF YOU'RE SURE IT'S OKAY NOW!
YOUR HEART IS PERFECT!
YOU'RE IN! LET ME BE THE FIRST TO CONGRATULATE YOU—THEN YOU CONGRATULATE ME!
A FEW DAYS LATER...
GEE, MR. WAYNE, I'M LUCKY! AND I OWE IT TO YOU—AND TO BATMAN AND ROBIN!
BUT MOSTLY TO YOURSELF, JORDAN! YOU WERE BORN FOR ADVENTURE! YOU COULDN'T DODGE IT IF YOU TRIED!
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM EXPEDITION
I CERTAINLY ENVY HIM!
TOUGH, ISN'T IT, HAVING TO GO BACK TO OUR HUM-DRUM LIFE AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, HERE IN GOTHAM CITY—WHERE NOTHING EVER HAPPENS!

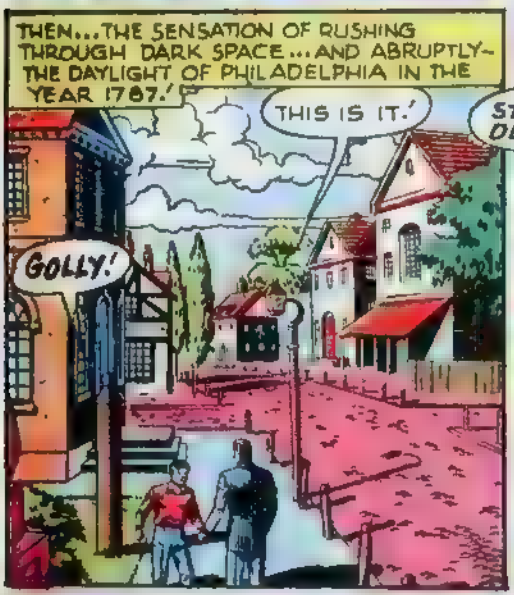
*Your favorite crime-busting team* — BATMAN AND ROBIN *also appear in* DETECTIVE COMICS *and* WORLD'S FINEST COMICS


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
BOB KANE
SUPPOSE ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS WAS THOUGHT TO BE A THIEF—BUT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IT? SUPPOSE YOU WANTED TO PROVE YOUR ANCESTOR'S INNOCENCE—EVEN IF IT MEANT PLAYING DETECTIVE A HUNDRED YEARS BACK IN TIME? IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY? THEN BRACE YOURSELF... FOR ONE MAN DID JUST THAT! THAT MAN WAS BRUCE WAYNE... ALIAS THE BATMAN! YES, CRIME MARCHES BACKWARD AS BATMAN PLUNGES ACROSS THE CHASM OF TIME INTO A WORLD OF YESTERDAY TO BECOME...
"THE FIRST AMERICAN DETECTIVE!"

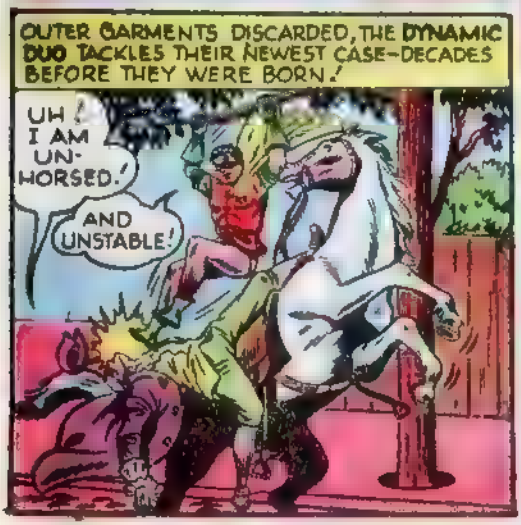
IN THE PALATIAL HOME OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE...(IN REALITY, THE BATMAN!)... GUESTS VIEW THE PORTRAITS OF BRUCE'S ANCESTORS...
QUITE A FAMILY, BRUCE! WHO'S THE ROUGH RIDER?
WINSLOW WAYNE! HE FOUGHT BESIDE TEDDY ROOSEVELT! NEXT TO HIM IS GENERAL HERKIMER WAYNE— WAR OF 1812!
AND WHO'S THIS?
SILAS WAYNE! HE WAS A PHILADELPHIA SILVER-SMITH AND..UH... A HIGHWAYMAN!
SO! THE FAMILY BLACK SHEEP! TST, TST! SCANDALOUS, OLD BOY! HA! HA!
LATER... BRUCE STANDS ALONE WITH HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
ODD HOW HE RESEMBLES YOU, BRUCE!
YES... SOMEHOW I'VE ALWAYS FELT A BOND BETWEEN US—AS IF WE'D MET...IN THE PAST!
HIGHWAYMEN WERE HANGED IN THOSE DAYS, BUT SILAS WASN'T! THAT'S ALWAYS PUZZLED ME!
MAYBE HE WASN'T GUILTY...
BUT I GUESS THAT'S SOMETHING THAT NOT EVEN BATMAN CAN PROVE...
WAIT A MINUTE! WHY NOT? PROFESSOR NICHOLS CAN SEND ME BACK INTO THE PAST AS HE'S DONE BEFORE! DO YOU WANT TO COME ALONG, DICK?
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT—THE MOST AMAZING DETECTIVE CASE OF ALL TIME—AS BATMAN OF THE YEAR 1947 ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE A MYSTERY OF THE YEAR 1787!
2

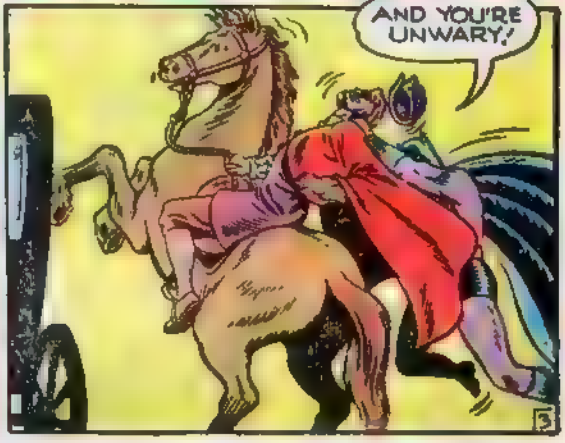

LATER...
WELL...THEN AT LEAST I'LL KNOW THE TRUTH!
WAIT! SUPPOSE... YOU PROVE SILAS WAS A HIGH-WAYMAN?


SOON...IN A DARKENED ROOM...
THE PRESENT IS FADING... YOU ARE GOING BACK... BACK TO ANOTHER CENTURY!...

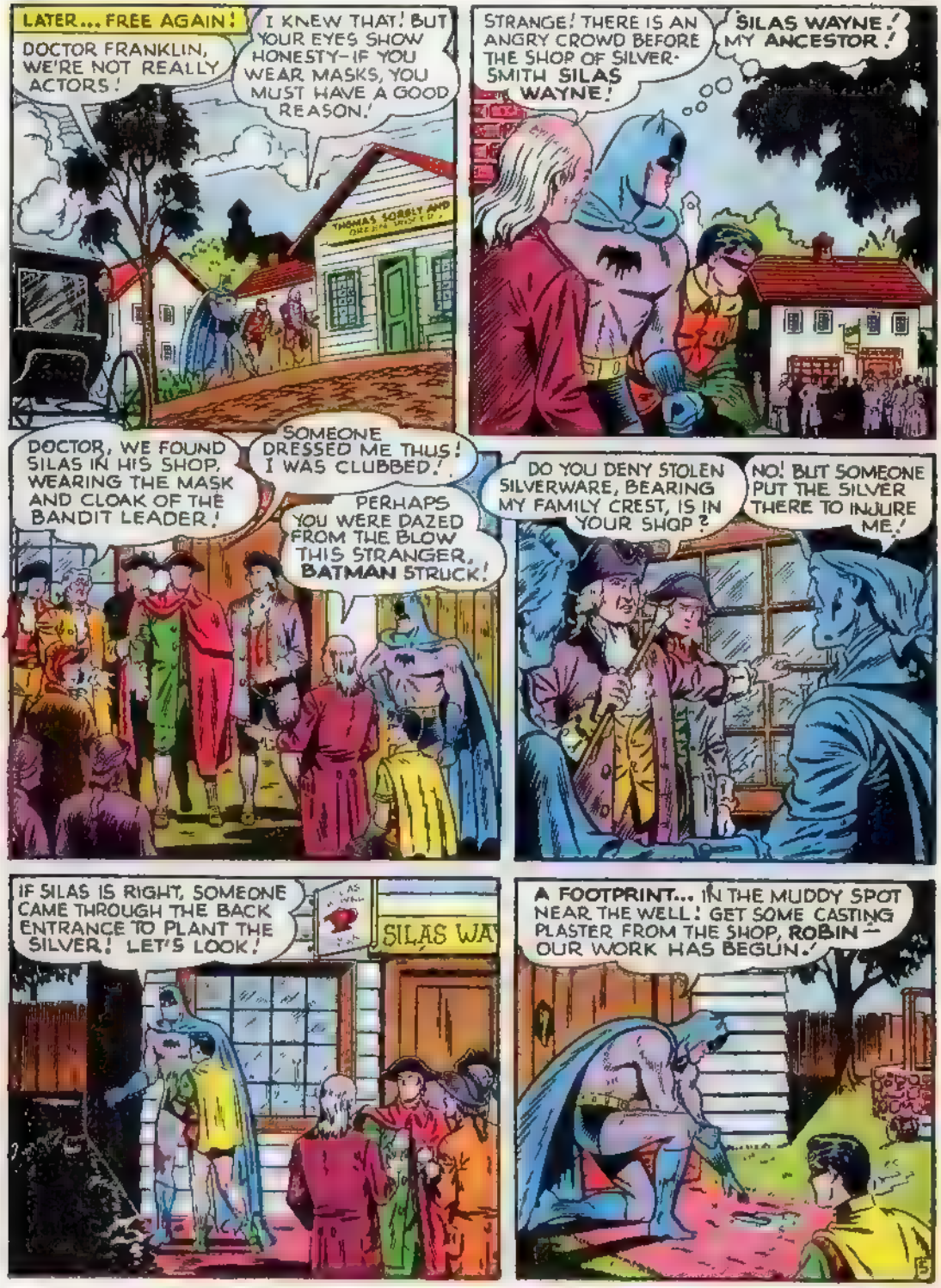

THEN...THE SENSATION OF RUSHING THROUGH DARK SPACE...AND ABRUPTLY-THE DAYLIGHT OF PHILADELPHIA IN THE YEAR 1787!
THIS IS IT!
GOLLY!

SUDDENLY... THE CLATTER OF HOOFS... A HOARSE CRY...
STAND AND DELIVER!
HIGHWAYMEN! DO YOU THINK IT'S SILAS?
IF IT IS—WE'LL FIND OUT AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!

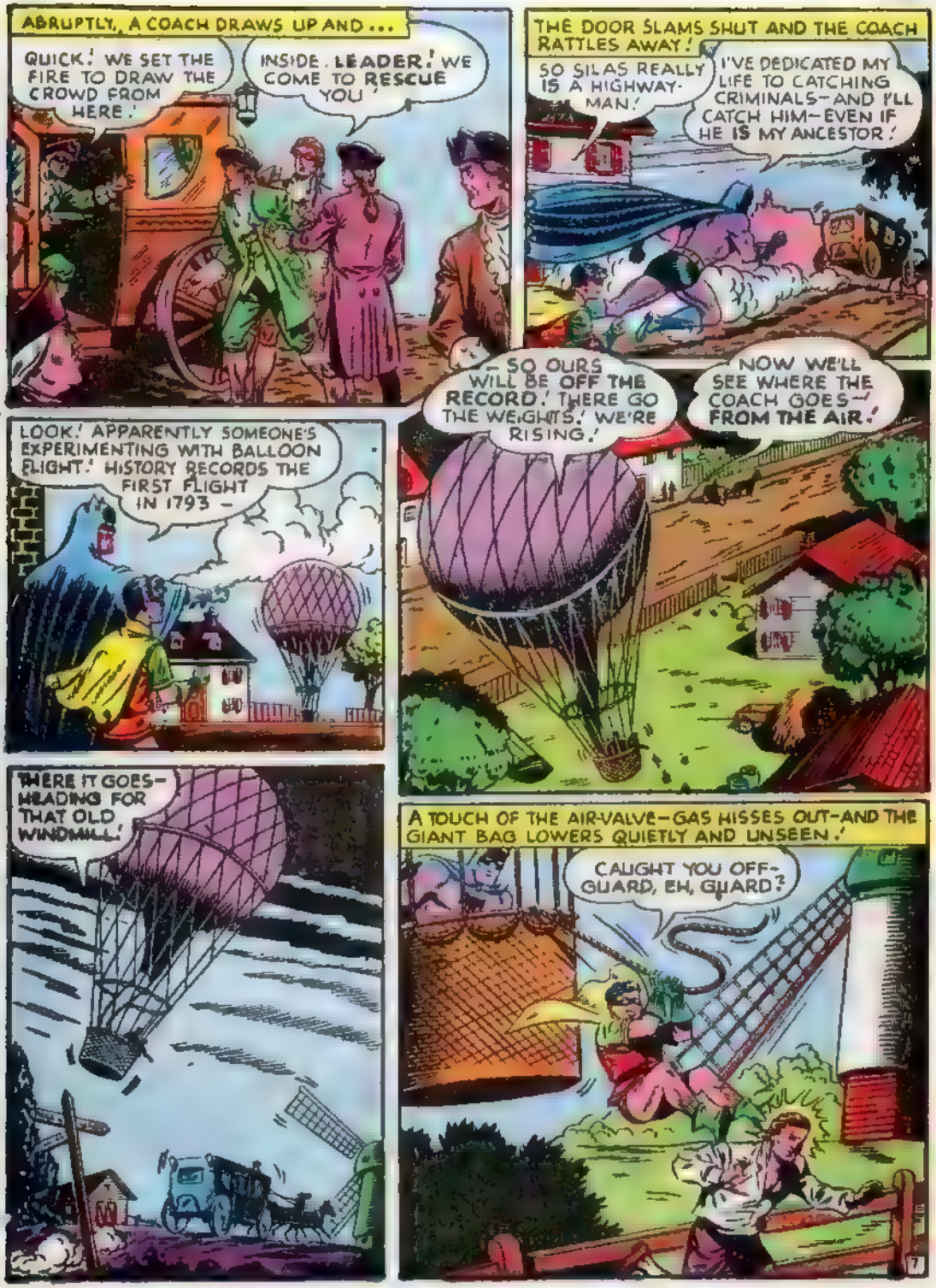

OUTER GARMENTS DISCARDED, THE DYNAMIC DUO TACKLES THEIR NEWEST CASE—DECADES BEFORE THEY WERE BORN!
UH! I AM UN-HORSED!
AND UNSTABLE!

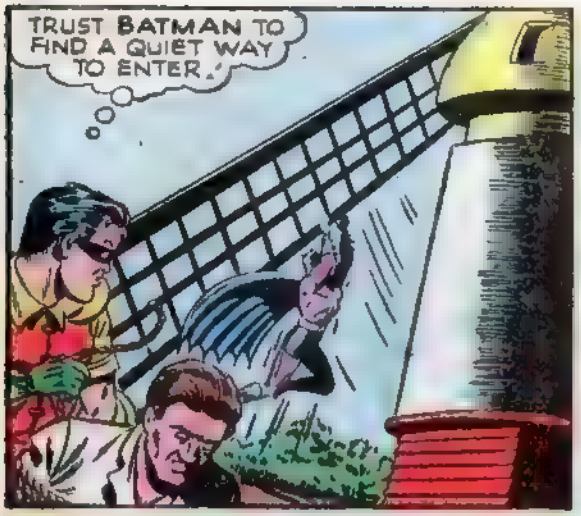

AND YOU'RE UNWARY!

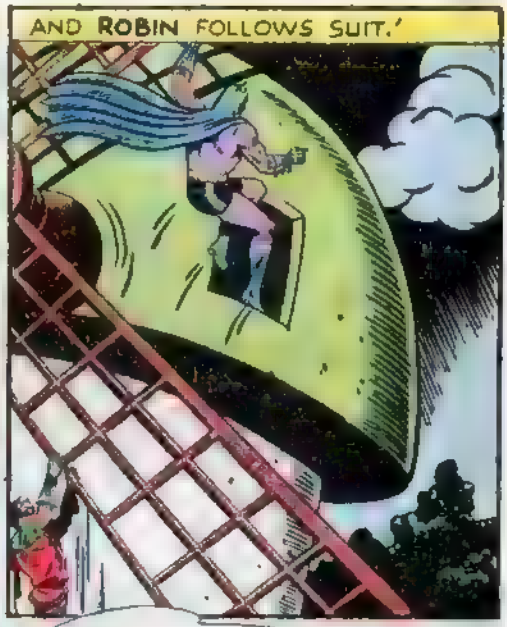
SUDDENLY IRATE CITIZENS POUR FROM HOUSES...
HIGHWAYMEN AGAIN!
THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK!
THE OTHERS GALLOP OFF!
BUT WE STILL HOLD THEIR MASKED COMRADES!
TO THE PILLORY WITH THEM!
NO... YOU'RE WRONG...
CERTAINLY IN THEIR WILDEST DREAMS THE CRIMEBUSTERS NEVER EXPECTED THIS!
RELEASE THEM! THEY ARE NOT BANDITS! THEY FOUGHT AGAINST THE HIGHWAYMEN!
IT'S DOCTOR BEN FRANKLIN!
BEN FRANKLIN—SCIENTIST, WRITER, STATESMAN... ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED MEN OF HIS DAY!
BUT, DOCTOR, THEY WEAR MASKS!
EXACTLY! FROM THEIR COSTUMES, IT IS OBVIOUS THEY ARE MERELY STROLLING ACTORS!
COME, GAOLER... I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE! RELEASE THEM!
GOLLY! IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WE GET BEN FRANKLIN FOR OUR LAWYER!


LATER... FREE AGAIN!
DOCTOR FRANKLIN, WE'RE NOT REALLY ACTORS!
I KNEW THAT! BUT YOUR EYES SHOW HONESTY—IF YOU WEAR MASKS, YOU MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON.
THOMAS SORBLY AND
STRANGE! THERE IS AN ANGRY CROWD BEFORE THE SHOP OF SILVER-SMITH SILAS WAYNE!
SILAS WAYNE! MY ANCESTOR!
DOCTOR, WE FOUND SILAS IN HIS SHOP, WEARING THE MASK AND CLOAK OF THE BANDIT LEADER!
SOMEONE DRESSED ME THUS! I WAS CLUBBED!
PERHAPS YOU WERE DAZED FROM THE BLOW THIS STRANGER, BATMAN STRUCK!
DO YOU DENY STOLEN SILVERWARE, BEARING MY FAMILY CREST, IS IN YOUR SHOP?
NO! BUT SOMEONE PUT THE SILVER THERE TO INJURE ME!
IF SILAS IS RIGHT, SOMEONE CAME THROUGH THE BACK ENTRANCE TO PLANT THE SILVER! LET'S LOOK!
SILAS WA
A FOOTPRINT... IN THE MUDDY SPOT NEAR THE WELL! GET SOME CASTING PLASTER FROM THE SHOP, ROBIN— OUR WORK HAS BEGUN!

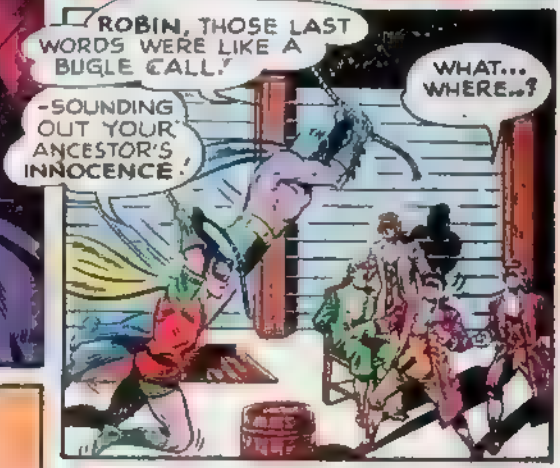
AS THEY RETURN, A LOVELY GIRL DARTS FORWARD...
SILAS, BELOVED..
COME, MY SISTER ...DO NOT ADDRESS THIS TREACHEROUS DOG!
YOU CALL ME THAT! YOU WHO WERE ONCE A TORY?
SILAS, I MUST GO NOW! MY MOTHER'S HEART CONDITION..
YES, MARTHA.. I KNOW IT ONLY TOO WELL!
OHHH...THIS EXCITEMENT! I FEEL FAINT!
MOMENTS LATER... IN A HOUSE OPPOSITE SILAS' SHOP...
HE DARES CALL ME A TORY... THAT COMMONER!
IT WAS THE SO-CALLED "COMMONERS" WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM! YOU FORGET THE REVOLUTION IS WON!
I CANNOT FORGET THEY BURNED OUR LANDS BECAUSE I WAS A LOYALIST! BUT NOW I HAVE MONEY AGAIN! SOON WE SAIL FOR ENGLAND!
I DO NOT KNOW HOW YOU GOT MONEY, HENRY... BUT I REMAIN HERE... AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN!
SUDDENLY—THE LIBERTY BELL RINGS AGAIN—WARNING OF A NEW DANGER!
CLANG!
CLANG
CLANG
FIRE! FIRE!
NO MORE TIME FOR EAVESDROPPING! FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT FIRE EQUIPMENT, THEY'LL NEED MANPOWER!

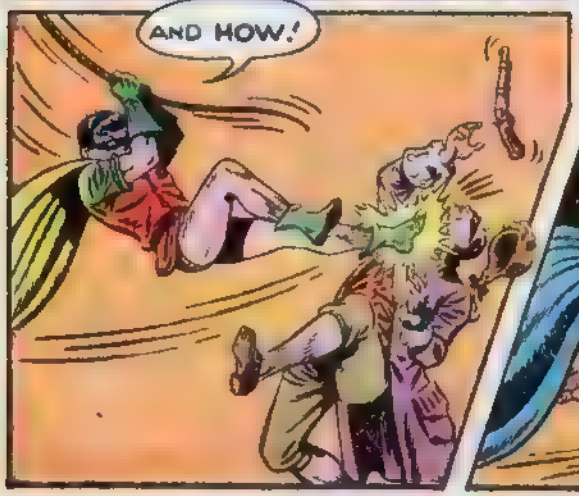

ABRUPTLY, A COACH DRAWS UP AND ...
QUICK! WE SET THE FIRE TO DRAW THE CROWD FROM HERE.'
INSIDE, LEADER! WE COME TO RESCUE YOU'
THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT AND THE COACH RATTLES AWAY!
SO SILAS REALLY IS A HIGHWAY-MAN!
I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO CATCHING CRIMINALS—AND I'LL CATCH HIM—EVEN IF HE IS MY ANCESTOR!
LOOK! APPARENTLY SOMEONE'S EXPERIMENTING WITH BALLOON FLIGHT! HISTORY RECORDS THE FIRST FLIGHT IN 1793 —
— SO OURS WILL BE OFF THE RECORD! THERE GO THE WEIGHTS! WE'RE RISING!
NOW WE'LL SEE WHERE THE COACH GOES— FROM THE AIR!
THERE IT GOES— HEADING FOR THAT OLD WINDMILL!
A TOUCH OF THE AIR-VALVE—GAS HISSES OUT—AND THE GIANT BAG LOWERS QUIETLY AND UNSEEN!
CAUGHT YOU OFF-GUARD, EH, GUARD?

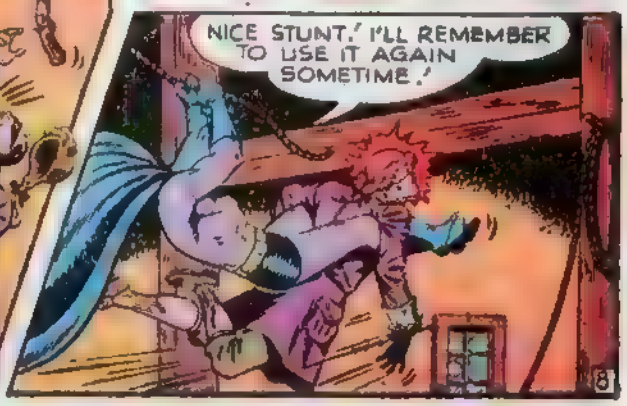

TRUST BATMAN TO FIND A QUIET WAY TO ENTER.'


AND ROBIN FOLLOWS SUIT.'

INSIDE THE MILL, VOICES COME FROM BELOW...
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE? I'M NOT YOUR LEADER.'
NATURALLY.' IT WAS OUR LEADER'S PLAN TO "RESCUE" YOU SO PEOPLE WOULD BELIEVE YOU WERE.'


ROBIN, THOSE LAST WORDS WERE LIKE A BUGLE CALL.'
-SOUNDING OUT YOUR ANCESTOR'S INNOCENCE.'
WHAT... WHERE..?


AND HOW!


NICE STUNT.' I'LL REMEMBER TO USE IT AGAIN SOMETIME.'

GOING SOME PLACE?
YI-II-II! I GIVE UP! I GIVE UP!
TALK! WHO IS YOUR LEADER?
NONE OF US KNOWS! HE IS ALWAYS MASKED AND MUFFLED IN A GREAT CLOAK!
THAT IS HIS ACCOUNT BOOK! HE LISTS OUR LOOT IN IT!
HMM-MM! THE MYSTERY-MAN GOT INK ON HIS THUMB AND LEFT A PERFECT FINGERPRINT!
ACCOUNT BOOK
ABRUPTLY, BATMAN CONCEIVES HIS PLAN...
ROBIN, WE'LL PUT THESE BANDITS IN THE PILLORY— AND THEN I'M GOING TO PLAY A HUNCH!
LATER...
I'M TRULY SORRY! MY BROTHER IS OUT! HE HAS GONE TO THE WHARF TO BOOK SHIP'S PASSAGE!
PUTTING OUT IN A SMALL BOAT, THE DUO ROWS TOWARD AN AMERICAN MAN-OF-WAR!
QUITE A SHIP!
AND QUITE A FLAG!

HELLO, HENRY! WE'VE JUST COME FROM THE WINDMILL!
OHHH...SO YOU GUESSED!
YOU'LL FIND I'M NOT THE FOPPISH FOOL YOU THINK I AM! NOW... ONE QUICK TUG OF THE TRIGGER...
BUT BATMAN TUGS FIRST—AT THE PENNANT LINE!
WHAT..?!
THE OLD FLAG HAS ONLY THIRTEEN STARS IN IT— BUT YOU'LL SEE MANY MORE!
THAT'S JUSTICE! A TRAITOROUS TORY CAUGHT IN THE FOLDS OF THE AMERICAN FLAG!
LATER... A SECRET MEETING AT THE HOME OF BEN FRANKLIN!
NOW DOCTOR FRANKLIN, I'LL PROVE THAT MAN IS THE LEADER OF THE HIGHWAYMEN! FIRST, THIS CAST I MADE OF THE FOOTPRINT BEHIND SILAS' SHOP!

REMOVING THE TORY'S BOOT, BATMAN INDICATES THE OBVIOUS SIMILARITIES.'
EVERY MARKING MATCHES.' THIS PROVES HENRY GANT PUT HIS OWN SILVER IN SILAS' SHOP.'
THAT IS NO PROOF THAT I AM THE HIGHWAY-MAN.'
NO... BUT YOUR FINGERPRINTS WILL PROVE THAT.'
WHAT ARE... FINGER-PRINTS?
REMEMBER, THIS IS THE YEAR 1787 ...AND FINGER-PRINTS WERE NOT OFFICIALLY USED IN CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION UNTIL 1903.'
ON OUR FINGER-TIPS ARE MILLIONS OF TINY PORES THAT FORM A PATTERN IN A SPECIFIC RIDGE-AND-FURROW DESIGN.'
HMM-MM.' BUT IS IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR TWO PEOPLE TO HAVE SIMILAR FINGERPRINTS?
ACCORDING TO A MATHEMATICAL CHECK, IT'S BEEN SHOWN THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE CHANCE IN SIXTY-FOUR MILLION.'
DOCTOR FRANKLIN, THIS IS WITCHCRAFT.'
I LEARNED LONG SINCE THAT PEOPLE CRY "WITCHCRAFT" WHEN THEY ARE IGNORANT AND AFRAID OF KNOWLEDGE!
PRESENTLY, THE NEWLY-INKED PRINT AND THE HIGHWAYMAN'S PRINT ON THE ACCOUNT BOOK ARE VIEWED.'
COUNT
THE PRINTS ARE IDENTICAL.'

THE REAL VILLAIN MAKES A BREAK FOR IT.!
A NICE TACKLE, SILAS!
A NICE PUNCH, BATMAN!
SILAS, I'VE A FEELING YOU SUSPECTED HENRY WAS THE HIGHWAYMAN.!
YES, BUT I KEPT SILENT FOR MARTHA'S SAKE! THE DISGRACE WOULD HAVE KILLED HER MOTHER.! NOW, WHAT SHALL I DO?
YOU MUST MARRY MARTHA TONIGHT AND GO TO NEW YORK.! I WILL SAY YOU WERE PARDONED! HENRY WILL RETURN HOME, A FREE MAN—ON THE PROMISE THAT HE SAYS NOTHING OF THIS TO HIS AILING MOTHER.!
YOU WILL SHOW MY LETTER EXPLAINING YOUR INNOCENCE TO MARTHA WHEN HER MOTHER DIES—BUT ONLY THEN.!
I WILL HIDE IT—AND SOME DAY—TRUTH WILL SEEK THE LIGHT!
AS SILAS LEAVES, SUDDENLY BATMAN REMEMBERS...
WE ALMOST FORGOT TO FIND WHAT WE CAME FOR.! THE PROOF.! SILAS.! WHERE WILL YOU HIDE THE PROOF?
AND THEN—
EVERYTHING'S GETTING DIM—SLIPPING AWAY.!
LISTEN.! I CAN HEAR THE LIBERTY BELL AGAIN...FROM A LONG DISTANCE...
BONG! BONG BONG

THEN—THE SUDDEN AWAKENING—IN 1947!
THE LIBERTY BELL... AND THAT CLOCK... RINGING ACROSS THE YEARS.
BONG! BONG! BONG!
LATER...HOME AGAIN!
WE SOLVED THE MYSTERY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE PROOF OF SILAS' INNOCENCE.
WE FAILED, AFTER ALL! NOT A CLUE TO THAT PAPER.
OUR CLUE! IT'S BEEN UNDER OUR NOSES ALL THE TIME THE LATIN MOTTO ON THIS ORIGINAL FRAME—THE TRANSLATION: TRUTH WILL SEEK THE LIGHT.
SILAS' EXACT WORDS.
CAREFULLY, BRUCE REMOVES THE RIBBON OF WOOD, REVEALING A HOLLOW IN THE FRAME! AND INSIDE—
THE FRANKLIN LETTER! BUT WHY DIDN'T MARTHA GET TO KNOW ABOUT IT?
SILAS DIED SUDDENLY OF PNEUMONIA AT THE AGE OF 30! HE DIED BEFORE MARTHA'S MOTHER...AND HIS SECRET DIED WITH HIM.
BOY, THAT LETTER GETS A TOP SPOT IN OUR TROPHY ROOM!
NO...THIS LETTER IS A HISTORIC DOCUMENT! NO, DICK...NOT OUR TROPHY ROOM...
SO PROOF OF SILAS WAYNE'S INNOCENCE GOES WHERE ALL MAY READ IT! THE FRANKLIN LETTER COMES TO REST IN A GREAT MUSEUM!
"KNOW YE ALL MEN, THIS IS TO VOUCH FOR THE HONESTY AND INTEGRITY OF SILAS WAYNE, SILVERSMITH..."
THE END
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SEE ROBIN THE BOY WONDER SMASH CRIME SINGLEHANDED
Each month in STAR-SPANGLED COMICS